

## Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MMO-04 FBOE-00 VOE-00 SSO-00

ABF-01 /017 W

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O 171259Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1762

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 2234

DEPT FOR SCA, ARA/MGT AND M/MO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CVIS, EFIN, XK, XL, XM

SUBJ: PROJECTED CHANGES IN MONTHLY IV CASELOADS AND POSSIBLE  
RESOURCE CHANGES

REF: STATE 277567

1. EMBASSY PLEASED TO NOTE THE DEPT'S ESTIMATE OF OUR FUTURE  
IMMIGRANT VISA CASELOAD IS QUITE CLOSE TO ACTUAL VISA ISSUANCE  
PREDICTED IN BTN 2078. BASED ON FIGURES PROVIDED, WE AGREE  
THAT A TOTAL OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL POSITIONS WILL BE REQUIRED  
PROPERLY TO PROCESS ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD RESULTING FROM  
AMENDMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAW AND INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE VISA NUMBERS PREVIOUSLY USED FOR  
CUBAN ADJUSTMENTS. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS REGARDING GRADE  
LEVELS, LOCAL SALARY COSTS AND OTHER MATTERS FOLLOW.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT THE TWO NEW AMERICAN OFFICER POSITIONS BE  
ESTABLISHED AT THE FSO-4 AND FSO-6 LEVELS AND THAT THE  
ASSIGNMENTS OF THE INCUMBENTS TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POS-  
8?)3. IF THE POSITIONS CANNOT BE FILLED BY JAN 2, 1977,

AND, IF AS EXPECTED, THE DEMAND FOR IV'S RISES DRAMATICALLY  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT DATE, WE COULD, IF THE DEPT  
AGREES, DEFER OR DELAY MAKING OUR REQUIRED "VISA CIRCUIT  
RIDING OFFICER" VISITS TO THE OTHER ISLANDS UNTIL THE SHORTAGE  
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IN AMERICAN STAFF HAS BEEN RESOLVED. THE POST DOES NOT

RECOMMEND THIS COURSE OF ACTION SINCE THE OTHER ISLAND GOVERNMENTS - ALL NINE OF THEM - WILL CERTAINLY REACT UNFAVORABLY TO SUCH A PROPOSAL AND DEFERRING THE TRIPS WILL NOT, IN ANY EVENT, GAIN ANYTHING LIKE SUFFICIENT MANHOURS TO OFFSET THE EXPECTED ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD. HOWEVER, THE NEW SCHEDULE OF VISITS TO THE ISLANDS FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 1977, HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED BECAUSE OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMMIGRATION AREA AND EXPECTED SHORTAGES IN OFFICER STAFF. SINCE THE OTHER ISLAND GOVERNMENTS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE AMENDMENT OF 22 CFR 41.6C EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1975 WHICH REQUIRES US TO MAKE THE VISITS, WE MAY SOON EXPECT TO BE ASKED WHEN THE NEW SCHEDULE IS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.

3. AS DEPT IS AWARE, THE CONSULAR SECTION IS NOW STAFFED BY AN FSO-3, AN FSO-5 AND THREE PROBATIONARY OFFICERS AT THE FSO/R-8 LEVEL (WE ARE JUST LOSING THE SERVICES, BY RETIREMENT, OF AN EXPERIENCED FSSO-4 WHO IS BEING REPLACED BY A BRAND NEW FSR-8 WHO HAS PROBABLY NEVER EVEN SEEN A VISA BEFORE). WE WISH AT THIS TIME TO REMIND THE DEPT THAT THE FSO-3 (WOOLLONS), THE FSO-5 (PELTIER) AND TWO (SNELL AND HUGGINS) OF THE THREE JUNIOR OFFICERS NOW IN THE CONSULAR SECTION WILL BE LEAVING BRIDGETOWN AT THE END OF THEIR TOURS DURING THE PERIOD JUNE THROUGH AUGUST, 1977.

IF THE DEPT CAN FIND A SUITABLE CANDIDATE, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE NEWLY ASSIGNED FSO-4 WOULD BE AN OFFICER WHO MIGHT REASONABLY EXPECT TO BE IN LINE FOR PROMOTION TO FSO-3 SHORTLY AND WHO COULD ASSUME CONSUL GENERAL WOOLLONS' JOB WHEN HE LEAVES BRIDGETOWN IN JULY, THEREBY ASSURING A MUCH NEEDED DEGREE OF CONTINUITY IN THE SECTION (DURING DISCUSSIONS HELD LATE LAST MONTH IN BRIDGETOWN, THE ARA EXECDIR AGREED THAT THE POSITION OF THE CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO FSO-3. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY APPEAR TO BE REASONABLE AND SOMEWHAT OVERDUE IN VIEW OF THE RANKS OF THE TWO SENIOR CONSULAR OFFICERS AT PORT OF SPAIN AND PORT AU PRINCE, WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE PROBABLY ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT OF THE PRESENT INCUMBENT OF THE POSITION AT BRIDGETOWN). WHEN WOOLLONS LEAVES, A NEW FSO-4 (OR FSO-3 AS APPROPRIATE) SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE CONSULAR SECTION.

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RM WITH REGARD TO THE LOCAL STAFF, SINCE WE ARE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF PROMOTING FROM WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION, ALL NEW LOCAL POSITIONS AUTHORIZED SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AT LEAST INITIALLY, AT THE FSL-1 LEVEL, US\$2492 TO \$3176 PER ANNUM. APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE IN THE LOCAL STAFFING PATTERN WHEN THE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ARE ON BOARD AND IN THE GRADE LEVELS OF SOME OF THE MORE EXPERIENCED AND SENIOR LOCAL

STAFF MEMBERS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORKLOADS THEY WILL HAVE TO ASSUME. WE PROPOSE EVENTUALLY PROMOTING THREE OR POSSIBLY FOUR OF THE PRESENT LOCAL STAFF TO POSITIONS ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO GRADES ABOVE THEIR PRESENT RANKS. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE NEW FSL-1 POSITIONS, WOULD COST ABOUT \$18,600 PER ANNUM.

5. WE AGAIN WISH TO REMIND THE DEPT THAT, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, BRIDGETOWN HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE ELECTRONIC VLOB MACHINE SYSTEM. IF THE SYSTEM COULD BE OPERATIONAL ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 2, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO LIMIT THE INCREASE IN LOCAL STAFF MEMBERS TO FOUR PERSONS RATHER THAN THE FIVE PROPOSED BY THE DEPT, OR ASSIGN ONE OF THE FIVE TO WORK AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

6. WITH REGARDS TO ADMINISTRATION, IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO HOUSE THE CONSULAR SECTION, WITH THE INCREASE INDICATED IN REFTTEL, IN PRESENT CHANCERY FACILITIES. THE POST IS FACED, THEREFORE, WITH TWO OPTIONS: 1) MOVE ENTIRE EMBASSY TO NEW LOCATION, APPROXIMATELY ONE BLOCK AWAY ON SAME STREET, OR 2) MOVE CONSULAR SECTION ONLY TO NEW LOCATION, AGAIN APPROXIMATELY ONE BLOCK AWAY ON THE SAME STREET, BUT IN A DIFFERENT OFFICE BUILDING. POST STRONGLY RECOMMENDS OPTION 2 PRIMARILY ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS CHEAPER, AND MUCH QUICKER, TO REESTABLISH A NEW CONSULAR SECTION THAN TO MOVE THE ENTIRE EMBASSY. IT WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY SIX WEEKS TO CONSTRUCT NEW CONSULAR SECTION VS. AT LEAST SIX MONTHS FOR NEW CHANCERY. FURTHER, PRESENT CHANCERY LEASE WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE BROKEN (LEASE PERIOD EXPIRES 30 SEPT., 1977), ASSUMING WE WOULD HAVE TO MOVE AS SOON AS

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POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO COPE WITH NEW WORKLOAD. SPACE VACATED IN PRESENT CHANCERY COULD BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED FOR A MUCH-NEEDED STORAGE SPACE FOR DAY-TO-DAY SUPPLIES, A MEDICAL ROOM (TO BE USED BY CONSULAR SECTION AS WELL), A DECENT USIS AND COMMERCIAL READING ROOM, A CHANGING ROOM FOR THE MSG'S AND, IF AGREEABLE, OFFICE SPACE TO HOUSE NEW AID SECTION WHEN THEIR LEASE EXPIRES NEXT SEPTEMBER 30. SINCE FBO HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHANCERY IN FY-1978 WHICH WOULD, PRESUMABLY, INCORPORATE ALL SECTIONS AND AGENCIES, ANY NEW LEASE ENTERED UPON WOULD BE ON A YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS.

7. COST FACTORS, IN US DOLLARS, ARE AS FOLLOWS FOR BOTH OPTIONS:

PRESENT CHANCERY FLOOR SPACE .... 10,500 SQUARE FEET  
PORTION ALLOTTED TO CONS..... 3,000

NEW CHANCERY LOCATION (ENTIRE FOURTH FLOOR  
OF MODERN OFFICE BLDG).... 15,490  
NEW CONS LOCATION (THREE OFFICES, MODERN  
OFFICE BLDG).... 4,633  
RENTAL COST OF NEW CHANCERY .... \$4.50/SQ. FT./YEAR  
RENTAL COST OF NEW CONS .... \$6.00/SQ.FT./YEAR  
(SAME AS PRESENT CHANCERY RATE)  
BASIC OFFICE CONSTRUCTION, NEW CHANCERY ...AVERAGE \$7.50/SQ.  
FT. (EITHER LOCATION)  
F&F NEW CHANCERY .... 30,000  
F&F, NEW CONS .... 18,500  
EQUIPMENT, NEW CHANCERY ... 4,500  
EQUIPMENT, NEW CONS .... 3,800  
ACTUAL UTILITY CHARGES PRESENT CHANCERY ... 23,800/YEAR  
PROPOSED UTILITY CHARGES, NEW CHANCERY... APPROX 27,000/YEAR  
PROPOSED UTILITY CHARGES, NEW CONS.... APPROX 9,000/YR  
JANITORIAL SERVICES, NEW CHANCERY...APPROX 10,000 (PRESENT IS  
8,876/YR)  
JANITORIAL SERVICES, NEW CONS....APPROX 5,000 WITH DECREASE  
OF APPROX 2,000 IN PRESENT CHANCERY  
SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW CHANCERY .... HARD TO DETERMINE,  
ESPECIALLY WITH C&R VAULT AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES RE-  
QUIRING SEABEES AND RCO'S INPUT.

SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR  
NEW CONS....\$8,000  
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REMODELING PRESENT CONSULAR SECTION  
AFTER VACATED.... 10,000

GUARD SERVICES FOR NEW CONS....APPROX \$3,000/YEAR

WITH REGARD TO GUARD SERVICES, IN ORDER TO HAVE A MARINE GUARD  
PLACED AT THE NEW CONSULAR LOCATION, AN ADDITIONAL MARINE WOULD  
HAVE TO BE ASSIGNED TO BRIDGETOWN AND THE PRESENT MARINE  
HOUSE CAN NOT ACCOMMODATE ANOTHER OCCUPANT. POST PRESUMES THAT  
DEPT WOULD APPROVE OUR HIRING A BRINKS GUARD TO SCREEN VISITORS  
TO CONSULAR SECTION.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SCA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 277567  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 DEC 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <01 Apr 2004 by morefirh, INA>; RELEASED <08 DEC 2004 by powellba>; APPROVED <14 DEC 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROJECTED CHANGES IN MONTHLY IV CASELOADS AND POSSIBLE RESOURCE CHANGES  
**TAGS:** AFSP, CVIS, EFIN, XK, XL, XM, BB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006